GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2528
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2004
CONGESTION AT AIRPORT
Ramadass Prof. M

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the Air Traffic congestion at Delhi airport especially in the evening of winter season and the inconvenience caused to travellers;

(b) if so, the measures proposed to alleviate this problem;

(c) the number of delayed departures of Indian Airlines in the last six months;

(d) the reasons for such delays while the private airlines maintain their punctuality; and

(e) the steps proposed to run the flights in time?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE(INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): Cat-IIIA Instrument Landing System (ILS) is already operational at Delhi Airport to facilitate arrival and departure of flights in a visibility range of not less than 200 metres. The Government has plans to install Cat-IIIB ILS so as to enable landing/take off of aircraft even when visibility is less than 200 meters. Airlines have been impressed upon to step up training activities for pilots to use these advanced technical equipments. Fog preparedness for the ensuing winter has been reviewed with all concerned agencies. A Coordination Committee shall monitor the start up clearances to manage and prioritize the movement of flights during fog. Meteorological Department shall be providing timely trends and forecast of fog and also make it available on the internet site. Air India has prepared a Contingency Plan for ensuring timely movement of flights during Winter Season. Private Airlines are also taking measures to manage operations during fog to mitigate any inconvenience to passengers.

(c): During the last six months (June - November, 2004), 26.07% flights of Indian Airlines were delayed.

(d): Main reasons for the delay are adverse weather, Airport restrictions, Bird hit damage, Security checks, VIP movement, technical snags, non-availability of crew etc.

(e) Steps proposed inter-alia include modernization of airports, upgradation of technical equipments, achieving greater use of these equipments, improving the ground handling facilities and passenger facilitation etc.